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Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 1 May 2020



Dear All

I hope that this week's newsletter finds all of our Latimer families well.

When the College is open, we all have hundreds of interactions with others on a daily basis. We are definitely a school community that loves to talk to one another! Our close-knit, family ethos is what defines us and there is a genuine sense of happiness and warmth as we each go about our daily College life.

For many of us, the sudden removal of this has been one of our greatest challenges. What the staff at the College miss most is our students!

That is why the 'Community Corner' section of our newsletter is so important. Yes, we are keen to share key information and updates with you each week but just as important is keeping in touch with what our students are doing. We know that you are all doing your best to ensure that your child is learning from home, and we are keen to hear about this, but we also enjoy sharing in the other experiences that this time away from school is allowing our students to have.

By sharing in this way, we will keep that sense of community and belonging.

So please, do keep in touch and let us know what you and your children are up to.

Next week, we will also be taking the time to consider if there are further ways that we can keep in touch with your children and we will update you in the next newsletter.

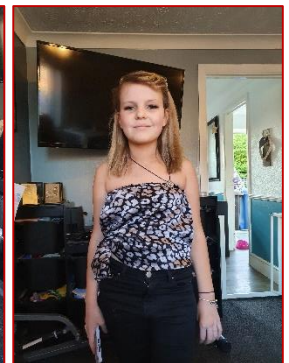
In the meantime, thank you for what you are doing and take care.

Regards
Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Community Corner

Ashton and Kayla Chester have been busy at home practising their design technology skills.

Ashton has made an amazing bench out of old bits of wood and Kayla has been designing clothes, as modelled here by her and her sister Kendal.



Fitness and creativity have been taking place alongside academic studies during our childcare provision at Latimer.

Mr Hallett and Miss Ghayour led another Joe Wicks session – we challenge you all to try the "duck walks"!

The students also created the beautiful rainbow display in our Learning Resource Centre with the help of Miss Strudwick.



Thank you Mrs Caldwell, who provided last week's location quiz. The winning entry was from Charlie Summers who identified 18 locations and a special mention goes to the family of Max Armstrong and family of Elliot Hardy who were both a close second. The answers are included with this newsletter.



Our best wishes go to the following students who will all be celebrating their birthdays over the next week:

Jaden Arnold-Clark, Oakley Bail, Kyle Barrie, Emily Brooker, Lee Brown, Alice Bugby, Destiny Cooke, Charlie Crabtree, Liberty Currall, Lucas Essam, Grace Helsdown, Eva Henson, Corey Jolley, Cerys McMeekin, Fatima Noureddine, Millie Painter, Jack Phillips, Ryan Power, Dylan-Jay Sidibe, Harry Simpson, Julia Smykla and Ellie Wood.

And on the birthday note:

BREAKING NEWS

We are delighted to let you know that Mrs Roberts gave birth to a daughter, Isabella May Roberts, at 1:48am Thursday 30 April, weighing 7lbs 3oz. Mother and baby are both doing well.



Educational Provision

Home Learning: 4 May Onwards

Years 7-9: Years 7, 8 and 9 will be issued with a weekly booklet, emailed to students and their parents and carers, with a range of activities for each subject for them to select to complete. These subject based activities will have a range of challenge, can be carried out in a variety of ways (for example, some may be practical, some online, some creative) and can be completed individually, with brothers and sisters and/or with parents and carers.

Our plan is to be inclusive: there will be something for everyone!

Our hope is that this enables students to maintain their engagement in the learning process but eases the pressure on both students and their parents and carers, with students being encouraged to create a personalised timetable.

We also remind parents and carers that you can only do what you can do, so please do not worry! Encourage your child to complete a range of activities daily but your priority needs to be keeping them safe and ensuring their well-being. Let us worry about them 'catching up' when they do return to school!

All of the information about how students should use the booklet will be included when it is sent out.

Years 10 and Year 12: Learning will now have a focus on activities that consolidate or extend prior learning, rather than introducing new learning and will include assessment activities. Again, we hope that this will ease the pressure on all. By using time purposefully now to become experts in what they have already studied, students will reduce their revision burden next summer. When they return to College, we will then have the time to teach them the topics that are still to be covered.

These activities will be uploaded onto SMHW, following a student's normal timetabled lessons. However, there can be an element of students being able to make decisions about how they plan their time. For example, they may find it easier to do all of the 'revision' based activities for one subject on one day, rather than spreading it over the weekly timetabled lessons and then concentrate on another subject the next day.

Year 11: Students will continue with their 'Foundation Learning Pack' to help to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level learning.

Just a reminder that key information about [Home Learning](#) can also be accessed on our website.

Key Information

Financial Support: Free School Meals

We would like to remind you that if you are experiencing financial hardship due to the impact of the current crisis, then you may be entitled to claim for free school meals for your child. This in turn will make you eligible for the Government's £15 weekly voucher scheme.

You can check your eligibility and access the online application form [here](#).

We urge all parents and carers who may now be eligible to register with [Northants County Council](#).

For all students who are currently eligible for free school meals, we have registered the main parent/carer's e-mail address and child's name with 'Edenred', the company that are organising the vouchers. Between Tuesday and Wednesday each week, you should receive an e-mail with a code to redeem in a supermarket from 'Edenred'.

If there are problems with redeeming your code please contact 'Edenred' on 0333 400 5932 or by e-mailing them at freeschoolmeals@edenred.com.

This week McColl's has been added to the list of supermarkets where the vouchers can be redeemed. The others are Aldi, Asda, M and S, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose.

If there is anything else that we can support with please contact JPankhania@latimer.org.uk

Government Funded Laptops and 4G Routers

We have submitted our request for digital devices and 4G dongles for disadvantaged Year 10 students and school children with social workers who do not already have them to the Local Authority who are responsible for ordering and distributing the devices to us.

We are not in a position to confirm a delivery date but we anticipate that this will be towards the end of May. We will keep you updated as soon as we hear anything.

Confirmation of Trip Refunds

We would like to thank you for your patience whilst we undertook what was the significant task of issuing refunds for cancelled trips. Parents and carers should be in receipt of this money now.

Geography Field Trip Update

As anticipated, we have now had to cancel the A-Level Dorset trip planned for June as the accommodation is unable to open for the remainder of the academic year due to Coronavirus.

We will commence the procedure of refunding the money that has been paid so far for the trip and will try to do this as quickly as we can. We would however ask for your patience whilst we make these arrangements.

As one of the primary aims of this trip was to allow students to collect data for their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) that is part of the A-Level course we will continue to monitor the situation and will look to put in place alternative arrangements in the future to ensure they are still able to collect the data they require to ensure no students are at a disadvantage.

Currently the Year 10 Amersham Field Trip has not yet been cancelled. Whilst we do not anticipate that it will go ahead, we are not in a position to process refunds until the company themselves make the cancellation. We will update you when we have further information.

Fraud Awareness

It is saddening that in times that are already a challenge for us all, others seem to want exploit opportunities to add to our difficulties.

There are a number of 'scams' that we are aware of that we wanted to highlight to you: there are some circulating in respect of Free School Meals. The EFSA have also alerted us that some learners and parents have received a letter from the ESFA asking for personal bank details in relation to the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund. Also, it has been brought to our attention that there are some Amazon scams, one where home deliveries of items not ordered are being made and then followed up by a phone call in which the fraudsters try to gain personal information.

We urge you all just to be extra vigilant.

News and Events

KS4 Pathway Preferences

We just wanted to reassure you that 'normal' processes are continuing in relation to Year 8 pathway preferences. We are currently reviewing the preferences that students expressed and have initiated our timetabling process for the new academic year. Along with our usual timeframes, we will issue letters confirming subject allocations in Term 6. Should there be any challenges with over-subscribed courses, we will contact parents and carers directly over the course of this term.

Year 12: Planning for the future

The Year 12 'Future Destinations' pack is ready to be issued to both students and parents/carers on Monday 4 May with details of:

- A 10-week overview of the weekly tasks to ensure that university or workplace application material is ready for when we return.
- Details of the 'virtual' Open Days that universities are starting to offer.
- Information about MOOCS, which are online courses on Unifrog that can be completed to support with enhancing evidence for personal statements.

At the start of each week the activities will be set on Show My Homework and all resources will be stored and saved in the student's "interactions" in Unifrog ready for our return. Form tutors will be sending out friendly reminders to ensure that students are keeping on top of things and of course be on hand to offer feedback on Unifrog to support their application material.

Year 11 Yearbook

Despite some events being disrupted, we still fully intend to produce a Yearbook for our Year 11 students. In order to do this, we need some help!

We kindly request that parents and carers of Year 11 students ask their child to check their inbox as Mrs Shore has emailed those that have not handed in their Yearbook comment forms. We want to do everything we can to ensure that all students are able to be included in the book and have their comments in place.

If there are any questions regarding the Yearbook please contact Mr Tamkin at stamkin@latimer.org.uk

Year 6 Induction: Moving Up Evening

And as one year group prepares to leave, another is about to arrive!

Next week would have seen us welcome the parents and carers of our new Year 7 students to our Moving Up Evenings, which sadly will be unable to take place.

However, we would like to reassure parents and carers of Year 6 students who will be joining us in September that we are continuing with our induction programme! As with so many things at the moment, we are adapting what we do so that we can do our best to make sure that our students do not miss out.

Included with our newsletter next week will be an induction package, that will include key information about the College that can be shared with students.

We very much have our fingers crossed that we will be able to host a Moving Up Day for our students before they join us officially.

Science Learning Centre: seeing is believing!

We are delighted that lockdown has not prevented our Science Learning Centre project from progressing, albeit at a slightly slower pace. Just look at the building now...



Safeguarding and Well-Being

Useful Mental Health Links

Mental Health Support for Children and Young People at this time is increasingly important. There is no need for young people to experience difficult situations alone. If you know of a young person experiencing issues, please find details to promote and support children and young people's mental wellbeing:

Young Minds

This is a UK charity who support children and young people's mental health. You can text the Young Minds crisis Messenger for free 24/7 support. Text YM to 85258 or visit their [website](#) if you are struggling with self-isolation, coronavirus and the impact it has on your mental health.



If you are a parent or carer needing help, you can contact their helpline on 0808 802 5544.

The Lowdown

This is a voluntary Mental Health organisation, providing free and confidential counselling, emotional wellbeing, sexual health and LGBTQ services for 11-25 year olds. They have launched a [virtual wellbeing helpline](#) and you can also contact them via phone or e-mail: Helpline: 01604 622223 E-mail: info@thelowdown.info

MindEd

As a parent or carer who is concerned about the mental health of your child or teenager, you may just want some hints and tips. [MindEd for Families](#) has advice and information on what you can do to best support your family, and how to take care of yourself. MindEd for Families is written by a team of specialists and parents, working together.

Every Mind Matters

This is an [NHS platform](#) which supports with looking after your own and other's mental health.

Friday Family Fun: Quiz Night

You may be aware that on a Friday during tutor time, students take part in the popular Weekly Quiz. We would like to continue this tradition and start to send you the weekly quiz so that you could complete it as a family. We have enclosed the questions and the answers – enjoy!

And finally...

The Kettering Dialysis Unit got in touch with us after seeing last week's newsletter item about Latimer staff creating headbands for NHS Staff and asked if we could make some for them also. Mrs Herbert, Mrs Cowley and Mrs Moodie got the sewing machines out again and we dropped off some headbands to the team this week with a few treats for the staff. They were delighted and so grateful to receive them – they sent us these pictures!

